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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I think there are distinct orders in the matter."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know what the orders are?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, with reference to items 1 and 2 in the appendix whether the Director-General of Stores, London, has simply to carry out the instructions of this Government as agent or whether he has full discretion to buy as he chooses?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"Notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know whether he has to buy from the cheapest market?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"So far as I know he has to buy in the cheapest market. I cannot give an authoritative answer. If such an answer is asked for, I must ask for notice."

Land Revenue

Failure of crops in Palghat taluk.

*1828 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to the answers given to questions Nos. 1377-A and 1377-B, regarding failure of crop in Palghat taluk—

(a) the normal rainfall in Palghat taluk in every month from June to December;

(b) the actual rainfall recorded during the same period in 1928;

(c) whether the supply of water reported as insufficient in the season report for December has affected the second crop; and

(d) whether remission has been granted in the case of lands where the second crop has not been compounded?

A.—(a) & (b) The average rainfall during the months of June to December and the actual rainfall in 1928 during those months, as recorded at the three registering stations of the Palghat taluk, is given in the attached statement.[a]

(c) In a report, dated 30th December 1928, the Collector of Malabar stated that the condition of the standing crop in the Palghat taluk was poor for want of rain.

(d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clause (c) of question No. 1377-B.

Jails

Alleged ill-treatment of persons connected with the Koilpatti sedition case.

*1829 Q.—Mr. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. A. Kuppuswami Mudali, M. S. Subrahmani Ayyar, Nainiyappa Pillai and Dayvanayakayya sentenced in the Koilpatti sedition case were not allowed to take their books and shoes with them;

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 711 infra.

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(*b*) whether they are complaining about the quality of the food supplied to them;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to make any enquiry; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government have no information but they have called for it

Mr. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to place the information called for as soon as it is received on the table of the House? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall consider the suggestion."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that these people are detained merely under security sections and not for any crimes they have committed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not in a position to say anything until I get the report."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have accepted the opinion of the House expressed during the discussion of the cut motion regarding political prisoners that they should be given better treatment? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" During the discussion on the cut motion, this House referred to many points."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know whether these political prisoners will be placed in special divisions? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It all depends on the recommendation of the trying Magistrate, who has power to sentence them to simple imprisonment. If a request is made to the Magistrate, he will attend to it and report to the Government to confirm his action and the Government will then consider the question."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know from the hon. Member whether he cannot do anything in the matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government have no power, if the Magistrates concerned do not take the initiative in the matter."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the opinions expressed by this House are not entitled to some weight at the hands of the hon. the Law Member? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The opinions expressed by this House are certainly entitled to great weight and the Government will consider them."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Are not these people entitled to wear their own dress since they are undergoing simple imprisonment under security sections and are not there for commission of any crimes? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Provided the Magistrate passed an order placing them under the special division."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know, Sir, from the hon. the Law Member what weight he has given to the opinion of this House in regard to diet of these prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Considerable weight."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know the decision he has come to?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I have no time to go into the matter and come to a decision."

Education

Prevention of wastage in elementary schools.

* 1830 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the problem of preventing the wastage in elementary schools is now under consideration;

(*b*) if so, what steps are being proposed to be taken for making elementary education more effective in spreading literacy; and

(*c*) whether the concentration scheme proposed by the Director can be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—"May I know whether the concentration scheme proposed by the Director of Public Instruction can be placed on the table of this House?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"The matter is still under consideration. No scheme has been placed before the Government as yet except that we have had some discussion."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know from the hon. the Minister the lines on which the Concentration Scheme is proposed to be brought into effect and what the suggestions are?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"The suggestions are to have one central higher elementary school for certain number of villages and the rest of the villages are to have Elementary schools."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know the radius?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"The radius is still under consideration."

Excise

Alleged protest of the Prohibition League, Malabar, against the location of an arrack shop.

* 1831 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place on the table of the House the representation of the Prohibition League, Malabar, to the Excise Licensing Board,